



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 5

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MTC Advisory Council
March 12, 2008
Minutes

Bob Planthold called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. Members in attendance: Steve Belkin, Paul Cohen, David Grant, Mary Griffin, William Hastings, Richard Hedges, John Inks, Cathy Jackson, Sherman Lewis, Xiao-Yun Lu, James McGhee, Eli Naor, Margaret Okuzumi, Michael Pechner, and Ray Razavi.

Minutes

Mr. Richard Hedges moved approval, Mr. Sherman Lewis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment – None.

Report from the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC);
Report from the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC)

Mr. David Grant presented a brief report on the EDAC Committee. He stated that EDAC is reviewing senior/disability transportation programs, which involved a staff presentation on the Caltrans 5310 program, the new freedom program, and a discussion of the Lifeline program. He noted that the bulk of the discussion was on the T2035 workshop, where they prioritized the four most important issues to go into the Joint Advisory Workshop work product. They were transit-oriented development, accessible taxis, audible crosswalk signals, and pedestrian safety in new construction projects.

Mr. John McGhee gave a brief report on the MCAC Committee. He stated that they have discussed their work plan, and put more structure in their subcommittees. He also stated that MCAC is in the process of having a special meeting to discuss their T2035 priority list.

Staff Report

Ms. Therese Knudsen stated that staff received 36 applications for the Station Area Planning Program totaling \$14 million. She noted that the request was twice as much as the amount of funding available in this funding cycle. A committee of Focusing Our Vision working group members will evaluate the projects over the next 6 weeks.

She also presented a brief legislative update, and commented on two bills that may be of interest to the committee: SB1731, Vehicle Licensing Fee; and AB2744, which imposes a regional fee on fuel.

Update on the February and March Joint Advisors Meetings

Mr. Bob Planthold stated that both MCAC and EDAC have prioritized topics they wanted to discuss at the Joint Advisors meetings. He noted that MCAC has conducted a special 1-hour meeting to develop a more structured approach, and stated that this could be a possibility for the Advisory Council as well.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Choices

Ms. Valerie Knepper stated that this study assesses why some people choose to live in TODs (and why others do not), how these decisions affect market share for TOD, how those living close to transit choose their travel modes, and various TOD policy implications for the future.

Ms. Knepper stated that the study will be based largely on a telephone survey focused on people who have either moved recently or are about to move. She introduced MTC's consultants, Mr. Chris Wornum and Elizabeth Sall, who presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Study and summarized the survey process.

In conclusion, Ms. Knepper stated that after the survey, a competitive market analysis will be conducted. The study will look at travel surveys that have already been completed by the consultants to understand more about the travel choices of those who live close to TOD. Finally, the study will look at policies, actions and performance measures needed to support and encourage investment in TOD. Workshops will be held in April 2009 to review draft findings and to brainstorm ideas for additional attributes and transportation features for TOD. A final briefing book will be developed, summarizing all information.

Committee Comments include:

- On the slide of who is sensitive to commute – this information is meaningless if commutes are not to central urban centers.
- People who take transit tend to be planners and those who are not planners tend to get into a car
- Developers have an understanding of what their market is and who is likely to be interested
- Public sector could regulate developments (i.e. include stainless appliances if that appeals to market demand)
- Do not focus exclusively on what the public sector can deliver
- What about environmental aspects – can the survey ask about that? Response: It is difficult to get responses that are useful
- Is pricing a snapshot or is it a trend? If fuel costs continue to go up, then free transit is important
- Struggling with terminology to describe lifestyles and perceptions about habitation – consider Transit Adjacent Communities
- Other questions to consider – working in TODs (vs. living), parking, last-mile
- Consider length and quality of commute

Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) Evaluation

Mr. Doug Johnson presented a PowerPoint on the TLC Evaluation, which summarized key findings and staff recommendations. He stated that staff funded small grants through TLC planning, and found that implementation was only in the 20% - 50% range. In terms of the Housing Incentive Program, staff found that the program has been very difficult to administer, and of the grants awarded, only half played a factor in the approval of the project. In terms of the TLC Capital Program, he stated that it can be somewhat difficult to link the program to other Smart Growth projects or new development from both a proximity standpoint, as well as a timing standpoint. TLC has historically only funded the “icing” on those types of projects.

Mr. Johnson also summarized three key recommendations: 1) eliminate the small TLC planning program, and instead concentrate on staff's resources on the Station Area of Planning Grant Program; 2) eliminate the Housing Incentive Program, but continue to look at the development

of housing and jobs as a factor in awarding TLC grants; 3) TLC Capital Program – staff will ask the Planning Committee to increase the funds from \$27M annually to \$60M.

Mr. Doug Johnson introduced Shelley Poticha of Reconnecting America, who discussed TOD and finance strategies. She summarized five areas: 1) capital improvements adjacent to TODs; 2) parking structures; 3) direct financing of TOD and infill; 4) affordability and accessibility investments; and 5) underwriting perceived risk.

Committee comments include:

- Suggest staff to find a way to incentivize those who live with minimal use of a car or don't use a car at all
- Staff could be doing a disservice to the smaller communities by eliminating the programs (TLC Planning and HIP)

Mr. Rich Hedges made a motion to support a TLC funding increase equivalent to staff's recommendation. Ms. Mary Griffin seconded. Motion passed with two opposed.

San Francisco County Transportation Authority's Mobility Access and Pricing Study

Ms. Tilly Chang, San Francisco Transportation Authority (SFCTA) Deputy Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation on SFCTA's Mobility, Access & Pricing Study, as well as the Urban Partnership Program.

Committee comments include:

- Collect tolls for Doyle Drive at the GG Bridge
- Make enhancements at the park and rides

Other Business/Public Comment

There was no other business. The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for April 9, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.